

50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY USA (World Orient)

SUBJECT 1. Paper Factory at Pravdinsk  
2. Hydro-Torf Power Station at Balakhna

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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1. A paper factory named Balakhninski Bunkombinat imeni Dzerzhinskogo Pravdinsk is located at Pravdinsk (56-32 N, 43-34 E). It is the second largest paper factory in the USSR and was completed in 1928.

## Electricity

2. Electricity is supplied by the Balakhna Hydro-Torf Electricity Works  $4\frac{1}{2}$  km down the Volga. The current is brought to the factory by a high-tension nylon line with six cables and is transferred in the factory's own transformer station. The current is three-phase (trekhfazny).

## Raw Material

3. Wood supplies are brought down the Volga in summer by boat, in winter by rail. The quantity is difficult to estimate since there are permanent wood piles 150 m in length and 20-30 m in height.
4. Cellulose arrives only by rail. It forms part of the Finnish reparations program.
5. Limestone comes from quarries on the Volga at a distance of 20-30 kms from the factory.
6. Metal ore comes from the Urals. The railcars are  5  
The exact nature of the ore is not known; it is extremely heavy and when struck with a pointed object immediately gives off innumerable sparks.
7. Sulphur is also brought to the factory; the source of supply is not known.

### Factory Labor

8. 2,000 civilian employees, mostly women, and 1,200 PWs are employed in the factory. Three shifts are worked, from 1:00 AM - 3:00AM, 3:00AM-4:00PM, and 4:00PM-11:59PM.

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Guards

9. MYD troops are responsible for guarding the PWs employed in the factory. It is not known whether they maintain a guard in the absence of PWs. Guards within the factory itself and at the entrances are provided by the factory guards (okhrana), who are responsible for fire fighting and the general security of the factory.

Production

10. Products consist entirely of printing paper (tipografnaya bumaga). Newspaper supplies are sent to the newspapers Pravda, Izvestia, and Pravda Leningra. Almost all products are sent off by rail. By-products include methyl alcohol and wood glue.

Production Process

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11. The factory possesses three large paper machines, [redacted]. The [redacted] machines produce 64-66 m of paper 6 m broad per minute. The [redacted] machine produces 63 m of paper, 6 m broad per minute. 50X1-HUM
12. Wood is brought from the Volga by means of a conveyer belt 400 m in length into the factory area. It is then either thrown onto a wood pile or, in the case of immediate need as fuel, transferred to another conveyer which conveys the logs to the shredding machine. Then the wood is torn into shavings and proceeds through a pipe by means of air pressure onto a moving grate, in appearance similar to a tank track, along which it passes in flames to heat the boilers above. By the time it reaches the end it is burnt out and is tipped into an ash shaft.
13. Wood intended for paper production is also transported, mostly from the wood piles, to the peeling machines and from there to the pulping department. From there the wood pulp (drevmassa) is conveyed to the bleaching department, which is composed of large concrete bunkers. Bleaching is carried out by gases brought under pressure through pipes to the bunkers. After the bleaching process, the cellulose is led by pipes into a large revolving boiler, from which it proceeds over a copper or felt band to the machines.

Balakhna Hydro-Torf Power Station

14. The Balakhna Hydro-Torf (peat) Station is located at Balakhna (56-29 N, 43-38 E). Balakhna is marked as Gidrotorf on some maps. The station is claimed to be the largest (sic) in the USSR.
15. The peat is dug in the area of Ivanovo, some 80-100 km west of Balakhna, and is transported on a miniature railway, between 60 and 70 cm in breadth. It is dug almost entirely by PWs or civil prisoners. On arrival, the peat is transferred from the railway line to the furnaces on conveyer belts.
16. Details of the production process or the meaning of the expression Hydro-Torf are not known. The plant serves the entire Gorki area with electricity. High-tension cables lead from the station in all directions. One cable crosses the Volga to the east.
17. The power station has at its disposal the inmates of PW camp 117/10, whose duty it is to unload the peat and to serve the conveyer belts. The inmates of PW Camp 165 work in the peat area itself. In all, 20 - 30,000 PWs are employed in digging out the peat.

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[redacted]

Comment: It is not understood to what hydro refers, as the station described here is thermoelectric.

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